

ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
September 1st, 2021

Present: Amy Forecki, Katie Forecki, Lorinda Patzner, Becky Rintelmann, Anne Spalholz, Nicci Sternitzky

1. Call meeting to order: Meeting brought to order at 6:36 pm
2. Minutes: Last meeting minutes with no changes
3. Treasurer report: Discussed payment of speakers vs. gift certificate purchase. Payments for tree sales coming in. Additional sales of camassia bulbs and books at Sustainability Fair last weekend (\$100 total). Discussed Birdathon proceeds and how to use them.
4. Milkweed Sale: completed on 8/21. Sold a few books, some camassia bulbs and half of the milkweed we had purchased (returned the remainder for credit). Total of 88 plants sold. Only 5 camassia bulbs left of the 50 we purchased.
5. Bird City WI: Review of designation shows attainment of High Flyer status likely—will send link to everyone for their review.
6. Bee City USA: planning for March 2022 photo—anniversary and recap of what has been done and what is planned for can accompany the photo. Discussed the DATCP Pesticide registry and how to promote. Will definitely want to add a “Natural Lawn Care” to next year’s lecture series.
7. Tree Sale: is underway. Library window taken up from 8/14-9/2. Trees marked at the park. Next Door post made and first 8 orders have come in. Will work to increase publicity. New banner made and hung at corner today for next 2 weeks—getting a second banner as well which I will see about getting placed at the dump for additional publicity. First lecture on trees and can have order forms available there.
8. Invasive Species Task Force: meeting every Sunday at 11 am at Veteran’s Park. Amy has agreed to lead on 9/27. Discussed Junior Guild grant application through the village to get goats to help eliminate buckthorn at the village park. Will contact company we talked with last year to see if they are still available for May 2022. Will work to do Invasive Species PSA’s via Instagram of species in bloom to help increase awareness.
9. Publicity: Anne has agreed to be Communications director of committee and is coming up with a template for publicity and what needs to be done. Discussed the purchasing on 1 or 2 tent signs that are set up whenever we are working on a project that say, “Beautification in Progress”. Instagram page @elm_grove_park is willing to post information from the committee as it relates to the village park and Veteran’s Park.
10. Book Sale: selling Lynn Steiner’s *Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin* (420) and two of Doug Tallamy’s books, *Bringing Home Nature* (\$20) and *Nature’s Best Hope* (\$25-hardcover).
11. Community Partnerships: discussed plan to possibly partner with local food stores and restaurants for events and with local hardware store for fundraiser idea.
12. Book Club: Sept 15, 2021-*7th Generation Earth Ethics*, Oct 20th-*Our Native Bees*, Nov 17th-*Second Nature*. Decision made for 2022 books. Jan 2022-*The Lost Art of Reading Nature’s Signs*, Feb 2022-*A Walk in the Woods*, March 2022-*Buzz, Sting, Bite: Why We Need Insects*, April 2022- *Monarchs and Milkweed*, Sept 2022- *The Biophilia Effect*, Oct

2022- *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*, Nov 2022-101 *Ways to Go Zero Waste*.

Additional bookmarks and publicity will be added to our current Book Club information.

13. Public Space maintenance: Discussed all current projects— Monarch beds at the park, Indian Hills corners, and Veteran’s park revitalization. Meeting with Keir Peckham (owner of Natural Landscapes, Inc.) on Sept 9th to discuss long-term plan for removal of invasive species at Veteran’s Park.
14. Lecture series: all lecturers have confirmed. O’Neill room reserved for first two speakers. Sept 13th - Jason Riemer “*Top 10 Problems with Your Elm Grove Trees (and their Solutions!*” and October 12th - Alec LePoidevin “Intro into Edible Landscaping”. Discussed refreshments and speaker payment options. Library helping to promote.
15. ATC Pollinator Habitat Grant: decided to put Rain Garden idea on hold until next year given current number of ongoing projects.
16. Next meeting: scheduled for October 6th at 6:30pm in the Park View Room
17. Adjournment: 7:29 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nicci Sternitzky
chair